

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SY-02 CPR-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7021

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3652

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, CM, UN

SUBJECT: ROBBERY OF CAMEROONIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: USUN 3856, 4200, 4509

1. AT CONCLUSION OF AMBASSADOR'S HOUR-LONG INTRODUCTORY "COURTESY CALL" ON FONMIN KEUTCHA OCTOBER 15 -- MOSTLY DEVOTED TO LENGTHY EXCHANGES ON KOREA AND PUERTO RICO -- KEUTCHA MENTIONED THAT "INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED AT HOTEL ROOSEVELT IN NEW YORK" WHICH HE WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR ON SOME LATER OCCASION. WHILE SAYING THIS, HE EXCHANGED GLANCES WITH HIS DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS, WHO GRAVELY NODDED ASSENT. KEUTCHA NEITHER ELABORATED ON NATURE OF INCIDENT NOR SUGGESTED ANY SPECIFIC TIME WHEN HE WANTED TO DISCUSS IT. AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AT KEUTCHA'S DISPOSITION, WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY INDICATING WHETHER OR NOT HE WAS ALREADY INFORMED ON SUBJECT. KEUTCHA HAS NOT BEEN BACK IN TOUCH SINCE THEN.

2. REFLECTING ON RECENT PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTING VOTES BY CAMDEL AT UNGA ON ZIONISM AND KOREAN RESOLUTIONS, EMBASSY CANNOT HELP BUT WONDER WHETHER KEUTCHA'S NY EXPERIENCE MAY NOT HAVE HAD, OR HAVE IN FUTURE, UNFORTUNATE REPERCUSSIONS FOR US.

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WE DO NOT WISH TO EXAGGERATE KEUTCHA'S IMPORTANCE IN DETERMIN-

ING GURC POSITIONS, OR SUGGEST ANY PARTICULAR MEANNESS OF SPIRIT. BUT IF HE, OFFICIALS AT HIS MINISTRY, CAMDEL AT UN, AND/OR GURC ITSELF PERCEIVES THAT USG HAS FAILED TO TAKE SERIOUSLY KEUTCHA'S REQUEST OR IN SOME WAY SLIGHTED GURC FONMIN BY REFUSING TO COMPENSATE FOR LOSS, IT CAN PROVE TO HAVE BEEN MORE COSTLY FOR USG THAN FOR KEUTCHA OR GURC. ALTHOUGH WE MAY RIGHTLY JUDGE THAT HIS CLAIM IS WITHOUT LEGAL OR EVEN MORAL BASIS, ONE CANNOT DISMISS IMPORTANCE OF HOW KEUTCHA AND OTHERS WITHIN GURC PERCEIVE THE SITUATION AND HOW THEY MAY REACT ON BASIS OF THEIR PERCEPTIONS.

3. WITH FOREGOING IN MIND, AND CONSIDERING POSSIBLE NEGATIVE VALUE OF BAD WILL -- NOT ONLY FOR CURRENT KOREAN ISSUE BUT ALSO FOR COMMUNICATION ON WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES IN FUTURE -- EMBASSY HOPES DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE SYMPATHETICALLY TO REVIEW KEUTCHA'S REQUEST FOR EX-GRATIA PAYMENT.
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